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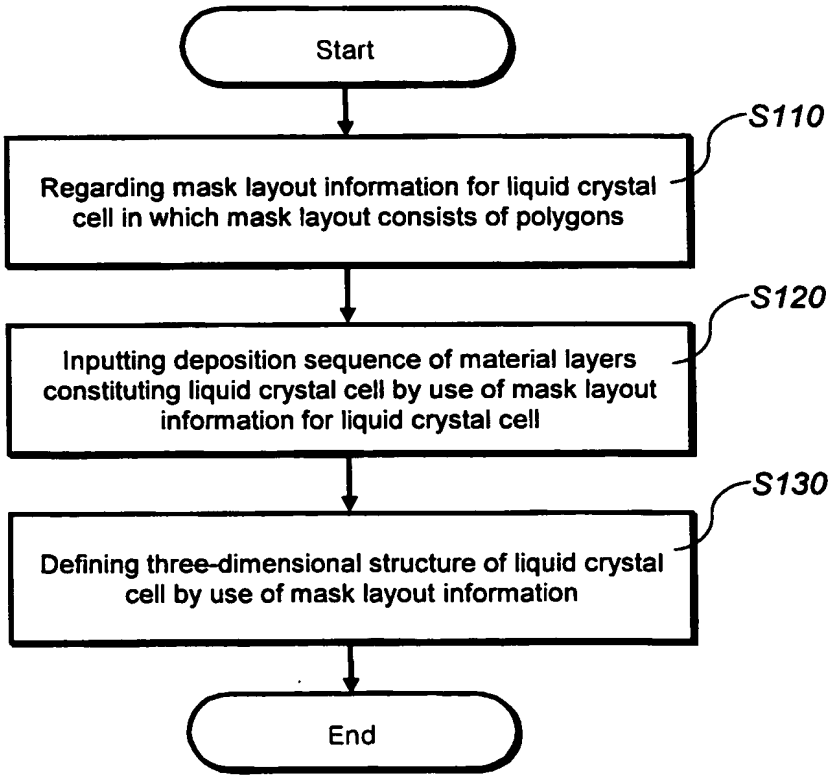
(54) Title: METHOD OF AUTOMATICALLY GENERATING THE STRUCTURES FROM MASK LAYOUT



(57) Abstract: A method of defining three-dimensional structure from mask layout for computer simulation, which provides a technology for defining a three-dimensional structure of liquid crystal cell which comprises a apparatus of liquid crystal display for designing and analyzing a apparatus of liquid crystal display. A method of generating three-dimensional structure which comprised of material layers between upper substrate and lower substrate, which provides a generation method of three-dimensional structure for computer simulation by depositing material layers under the upper substrate and over the lower substrate, and sandwiching a center insertion layer between the deposited upper and lower material layers for a case which includes tapered structure of material layer for the substrate.

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명세서

METHOD OF AUTOMATICALLY GENERATING THE STRUCTURES FROM MASK LAYOUT

[1]

기술분야

[2] 본 발명은 액정 표시 장치의 동작 특성을 예측하기 위한 컴퓨터 모의 실험

[3] 해석기를 제작하는데 있어서 액정 표시 장치에 대한 입체적인 구조를 정의하는 방

[4] 법 및 이를 적용한 컴퓨터 소프트웨어 시스템에 관한 것이다.

배경기술

[5] 본 발명은 상부 기판과 하부 기판 사이에 복수 개의 물질층으로 구성된 입체

[6] 구조체를 입력된 마스크 레이아웃 데이터로부터 전산 모사를 통해 생성하는 방법에

[7] 있어서, 특히 상기 복수 개의 물질층 중 일부가 상기 상판 또는 하판에 평행하지

[8] 않고 바닥면에 대하여 경사진 영역을 구비한 경우(이하에서 '경사 물질층'이라 칭

[9] 함) 상기 상부 기판과 하부 기판 각각을 기준 바닥면으로 하여 각각 일련의 물질층

[10] 을 적층한 후에 상기 일련의 적층물이 형성된 상부 기판과 하부 기판을 중간 삽입

[11] 층을 사이에 두고 샌드위치 시킴으로써 입체 구조물을 형성시키는 전산 모사 과정

[12] 에서의 입체 구조물 생성 방법을 제공한다.

[13] 액정 표시 장치는 일반적으로 박막 트랜지스터와 화소 전극 등이 형성되어

[14] 있는 하부 기판과 대향 전극과 컬러 필터(color filter) 등이 형성되어 있는 상부

[15] 기판 사이에 액정 물질을 채워 넣는 방식으로 제작되는 표시 장치이다.

[16] 액정 표시 장치에 대한 컴퓨터 시뮬레이션을 위하여 액정 화소에 대한 입체

[17] 적 구조를 정의하기 위하여 종래의 2차원 컴퓨터 시뮬레이션 소프트웨어에서는 액

[18] 정 화소의 단면 구조를 다각형들을 정의하는 방식을 사용하여 왔는데, 이러한 방법

[19] 을 사용하는 경우에는 입체적인 액정 화소 구조를 정의하기 어렵게 된다.

도면의 간단한 설명

[20] 도1은 본 발명의 실시예로서 액정 화소 구조의 입체적 형태를 정의하는 방법
[21] 을 나타낸 흐름도.
[22] 도2는 본 발명의 실시예로서 액정 화소 구조에 대한 마스크 레이아웃 정보로
[23] 부터 액정 화소를 구성하는 물질 영역들의 적층 순서를 입력하는 방법의 바람직한
[24] 실시예를 나타낸 도면.
[25] 도3 내지 도7은은 본 발명에 따른 액정 화소 구조의 입체적 형태를 정의하는 방법에 대
[26] 한 바람직한 실시예를 나타낸 도면.
[27] 도8는 본 발명에 따른 액정 표시 장치를 구성하는 액정 화소의 입체적 형태
[28] 정의 시스템의 구성도.
[29] 도9는 상술한 마스크 레이아웃 정보 작성 모듈의 바람직한 실시예를 나타낸
[30] 도면.
[31] 도10은 상술한 입체적 형상 정의 버튼을 선택하였을 때 나타내는 액정 화소
[32] 구성 물질 적층 정보 입력 모듈의 바람직한 실시예를 나타낸 도면.
[33] 도11은 상술한 새로운 물질 영역 추가하기 버튼을 선택하였을 때 나타내는 물
[34] 질 영역 정보 입력 모듈의 바람직한 실시예를 나타낸 도면.

발명의 상세한 설명

기술적 과제

[35] 따라서, 본 발명의 제1 목적은 마스크 레이아웃으로부터 입체 구조물을 생성
[36] 하는 방법을 제공하는데 있다.
[37] 본 발명의 제2 목적은 액정 표시 장치를 구성하는 액정 화소 구조의 입체적
[38] 형태를 정의하는 방법을 제공하는데 있다.
[39] 본 발명의 제3 목적은 액정 표시 장치를 구성하는 액정 화소의 입체적 형태
[40] 정의 시스템을 제공하는데 있다.

기술적 해결방법

[41] 상기 과제를 달성하기 위하여, 액정 화소 구조의 입체적 형태를 정의하는 방
[42] 법에 있어서, 액정 표시 장치의 구조 설계를 위한 마스크 레이아웃 정보를 읽어오
[43] 는 단계; 액정 화소 구조에 대한 마스크 레이아웃 정보를 사용하여 액정 화소를 구
[44] 성하는 물질 영역들의 적층 순서를 입력하는 단계; 다각형들로 구성되는 마스크 레
[45] 이아웃 정보를 사용하여 액정 화소의 입체적 구조를 정의하는 단계를 포함하는 액

[46] 정 화소 구조의 입체적 형태를 정의하는 방법을 제공한다.

유리한 효과

[47] 본 발명은 마스크 레이아웃 정보 작성 모듈, 액정 화소 구성

[48] 물질 영역 적층 정보 입력 모듈, 액정 화소의 입체적 구조 생성 모듈을 구비하는

[49] 액정 표시 장치를 구성하는 액정 화소의 입체적 형태 정의 시스템과 액정 화소 구

[50] 조에 대한 마스크 레이아웃 정보를 사용하여 액정 화소를 구성하는 물질 영역들의

[51] 적층 순서를 입력하는 방법, 다각형들로 구성되는 마스크 레이아웃 정보를 사용하

[52] 여 액정 화소의 입체적 구조를 정의하는 방법을 포함하는 액정 화소 구조의 입체적

[53] 형태를 정의하는 방법을 제공함으로써 액정 장치를 구성하는 액정 화소에 대한 전

[54] 산 모사를 수행하기 위한 구조 정의 시스템을 구성할 수 있다.

발명의 실시를 위한 최선의 형태

[55] 본 발명의 또 다른 과제를 달성하기 위하여, 액정 표시 장치를 구성하는 액

[56] 정 화소의 입체적 형태 정의 시스템에 있어서, 마스크 레이아웃 정보를 작성하는

[57] 모듈; 액정 화소를 구성하는 물질 영역들의 적층 정보를 입력하는 모듈; 마스크 레

[58] 이아웃을 구성하는 다각형을 변경하는 모듈; 액정 화소의 입체적 구조를 생성하는

[59] 모듈을 포함하는 액정 화소의 입체적 형태 정의 시스템을 제공한다.

발명의 실시를 위한 형태

[60] 이하, 첨부 도면 도1 내지 도11을 참조하여 본 발명에 따른 액정 화소 구조의

[61] 입체적 형태를 정의하는 방법 및 시스템의 실시예를 상세히 설명한다.

[62] 도1은 본 발명에 따른 액정 화소 구조의 입체적 형태를 정의하는 방법을 나

[63] 타낸 흐름도이다. 도1을 참조하면, 액정 화소 구조 설계를 위한 마스크 레이아웃

[64] 정보를 읽어오고(단계 S110), 액정 화소 구조에 대한 마스크 레이아웃 정보를 사용

[65] 하여 액정 화소를 구성하는 물질 영역들의 적층 순서를 입력하고(단계 S120), 다각

[66] 형들로 구성되는 마스크 레이아웃 정보를 사용하여 액정 화소의 입체적 구조를 정

[67] 의한다(단계 S130).

[68] 본 발명의 바람직한 실시예로서, 액정 화소 구조 설계를 위한 마스크 레이아

[69] 웃 정보는 마스크 레이아웃 작성기에서 작성된 마스크 레이아웃 정보 파일이 될 수

[70] 있다.

[71] 도2는 본 발명에 따른 액정 화소 구조에 대한 마스크 레이아웃 정보를 사용

[72] 하여 액정 화소를 구성하는 물질 영역들의 적층 순서를 입력하는 방법의 바람직한

[73] 실시예를 나타낸 것이다. 도2를 참조하면, 액정 층의 특성을 정의하고(단계 S210),

[74] 액정 층을 중심으로 상부 기판과 하부 기판에 생성될 물질 영역들의 적층 순서를

[75] 정의하고(단계 S220), 액정 화소의 물질 영역 적층 정보를 저장한다(단계 S230).

[76] 본 발명의 바람직한 실시예로서, 액정 층의 특성은 기본적으로 생성되어 있

[77] 는 액정 층에 대하여 액정 물질의 종류, 액정 층의 두께를 정의하는 방법이 될 수

[78] 있다.

[79] 본 발명의 바람직한 실시예로서, 액정 층을 중심으로 상부 기판과 하부 기판

[80] 에 생성될 물질 영역들의 적층 순서를 정의하는 방법은 기본적으로 생성되어 있는

[81] 액정 층을 중심으로 상부 기판과 하부 기판을 구성하는 물질 영역을 높이 방향을

[82] 기준으로 아래에서 위 방향으로 순차적으로 정의하는 방법이 될 수 있고, 새로운

[83] 물질 영역을 정의함에 있어서 정의되어 있는 물질 영역들의 가운데에 삽입하는 방

[84] 법이 될 수 있으며, 새로운 물질 영역은 물질 영역의 이름, 물질의 이름, 물질 영

[85] 역의 두께, 마스크 이름, 양 또는 음의 마스크 종류, 옆면 경사각도, 기판의 종류

[86] 를 사용하여 정의할 수 있다.

[87] 본 발명의 바람직한 실시예로서, 액정 화소의 물질 영역 적층 정보는 컴퓨터

[88] 메모리 또는 컴퓨터 파일로 저장하는 방법이 될 수 있다.

[89] 도3은 본 발명에 따른 액정 화소 구조의 입체적 형태를 정의하는 방법에 대

[90] 한 바람직한 실시예를 나타낸 것이다. 도4를 참조하면, 입체적 구조를 정의하기

[91] 위한 마스크 레이아웃 정보의 실시예로서 입체적 구조를 정의하기 위한 영역(300),

[92] 제1마스크(310), 제2마스크(320)로 구성되어 있는 마스크 레이아웃 정보를 나타낸

[93] 다.

[94] 도5를 참조하면, 제1마스크(310)는 경사각이 지정되지 않은 마스크이며 제2

[95] 마스크(320)는 경사각이 지정된 마스크로서, 경사각이 지정된 제2마스크(320)에 대

[96] 하여는 마스크 레이아웃 개체를 나타내는 다각형의 가장자리 및 다른 마스크의 다

[97] 각형과 중첩되는 모서리를 따라서 다각형의 내부 영역으로 다각형을 분할 생성하여

[98] 분할된 다각형(321)을 생성한다. 도5는 상술한 도4의 마스크 구조를 3차원 공간

[99] 에 나타낸 것이다.

[100] 도6을 참조하면, 상술한 입체적 구조를 정의하기 위한 영역(300)을 사용하

[101] 여 특정한 두께를 가지는 제1 물질영역(350)을 생성하고, 제1 물질영역(350) 위에

[102] 제1마스크(310)를 사용하여 특정한 두께를 가지는 제2 물질영역(360)을 생성하고,

[103] 제1 물질영역(350)과 제2 물질영역(360)으로 구성되는 입체적 구조 위에 분할된 다

[104] 각형(321)을 포함하는 제2마스크(320)를 사용하여 제3 물질영역(370)을 생성한다.

[105] 본 발명의 바람직한 실시예로서, 각 물질 영역의 두께는 사용자가 지정하는

[106] 방법을 사용할 수 있다. 본 발명의 바람직한 실시예로서, 상술한 제2 물질영역

[107] (360)을 생성하기 위하여 제1 물질영역(350)의 상부 표면으로부터 사용자가 지정한

[108] 두께만큼 제1마스크(310) 구조를 높이 방향으로 확장하여 생성할 수 있다.

[109] 본 발명의 바람직한 실시예로서, 상술한 제3 물질영역(370)을 생성하기 위하

[110] 여 제1 물질영역(350) 및 제2 물질영역(360)으로 구성되는 입체적 구조의 노출

된

[111] 상부 표면에 제2마스크(320) 구조를 생성하여 제3 물질영역(370)의 바닥면으로 생

[112] 성하고, 제3 물질영역(370)의 바닥면으로부터 사용자가 지정한 두께만큼 높이 방향

[113] 으로 분할된 다각형(321)구조를 확장하여 제3 물질영역(370)의 상부면을 생성하고,

[114] 제3 물질영역(370)의 바닥면과 상부면을 구성하는 꼭지점들을 상하로 연결하여 제3

[115] 물질영역(370)의 옆면을 생성할 수 있다.

[116] 도7을 참조하면, 상술한 제1 물질영역(350), 제2 물질영역(360), 제3 물질

[117] 영역(370)들로 구성되는 하부기판의 입체적 구조에 부가하여, 하부기판의 표면 구

[118] 조에서 가장 높이가 낮은 곳으로부터 사용자가 지정한 액정 물질의 두께만큼 높이

[119] 방향으로 이동한 지점에 상부기판 구조 제4 물질영역(380)을 생성하고, 상부기판

[120] 구조물의 바닥면과 하부기판의 상부면 사이에 제5 물질영역(390)을 생성한다. 본

[121] 발명의 바람직한 실시예로서, 하부기판 구조와 상부기판 구조물 사이에 채워지는

[122] 제5 물질영역(390)은 액정 물질로 정의한다.

[123] 도8은 본 발명에 따른 액정 표시 장치를 구성하는 액정 화소의 입체적 형태

[124] 정의 시스템의 구성도이다. 도8을 참조하면, 액정 화소의 입체적 형태 정의 시스

[125] 템(400)은 마스크 레이아웃 정보 작성 모듈(410), 액정 화소 구성 물질 적층 정보

[126] 입력 모듈(420), 액정 화소의 입체적 구조 생성 모듈(430), 마스크 레이아웃 정의

[127] 파일(440), 액정 화소의 물질 영역 적층 정보 파일(450)을 구비한다.

[128] 도9는 상술한 마스크 레이아웃 정보 작성 모듈(410)의 바람직한 실시예를 나

[129] 타낸 것이다. 도9를 참조하면, 마스크 레이아웃 정보 작성 모듈(410)은 시뮬레이션

[130] 영역 설정 버튼(501), 입체적 형상 정의 버튼(502), 마스크 레이아웃 작성부(510),

[131] 마스크 관리부(520)를 구비한다. 상술한 마스크 관리부(520)는 마스크 레이아웃 정

[132] 의파일(440)에 포함된 마스크 목록을 보여주면서 마스크 목록에서 마스크(521)를

[133] 선택하는 기능을 구비하고, 상술한 마스크 레이아웃 작성부(510)는 상술한 마스크

[134] 관리부(520)에서 선택된 마스크에 마스크 개체(511)를 그리는 기능을 구비한다.

[135] 상술한 시뮬레이션 영역 설정 버튼(501)은 상술한 마스크 레이아웃 작성부(510)에

[136] 서 시뮬레이션 영역(530)을 설정하는 기능을 구비한다. 상술한 입체적 형상 정의

[137] 버튼(502)은 액정 화소 구성 물질 적층 정보 입력 모듈(420)을 실행시키는 기능을

[138] 구비한다.

[139] 도10은 상술한 입체적 형상 정의 버튼(502)을 선택하였을 때 나타내는 액정

[140] 화소 구성 물질 적층 정보 입력 모듈(420)의 바람직한 실시예를 나타낸 것이다.

[141] 도10을 참조하면, 액정 화소 구성 물질 적층 정보 입력 모듈(420)은 물질 영역 적층

[142] 정보 보기부(610), 새로운 물질 영역 추가하기 버튼(620), 물질 영역 적층 정보 보

[143] 기부(610)에서 선택한 물질 영역 삭제하기 버튼(630), 입체적 구조 생성하기 실행

[144] 버튼(640), 물질 영역 적층 정보 읽어오기 버튼(650), 물질 영역 적층 정보 저장하

[145] 기 버튼(660)을 구비한다.

[146] 도11은 상술한 새로운 물질 영역 추가하기 버튼(620)을 선택하였을 때 나타내

[147] 는 물질 영역 정보 입력 모듈(700)의 바람직한 실시예를 나타낸 것이다. 도11을 참

[148] 조하면, 물질 영역 정보 입력 모듈(700)은 물질 선택부(710), 물질 영역의 두께 입

[149] 력부(720), 마스크 선택부(730), 마스크 특성 설정부(740), 선택된 물질 영역 위에

[150] 새로운 물질 영역 삽입하기 버튼(750), 선택된 물질 영역 아래에 새로운 물질

TITLE OF INVENTION

METHOD OF AUTOMATICALLY GENERATING THE STRUCTURES FROM MASK LAYOUT

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a method for generating a three-dimensional structure of a liquid crystal cell, which can be employed for designing the LCD panel by predicting the dynamics of a liquid crystal pixel, and a computer software system utilizing the same.

More particularly, the present invention relates to a method for estimating a three-dimensional structure comprising a plurality of material layers between upper and lower substrates through computer simulation from the a mask layout input data, wherein the three-dimensional structure is defined through the computer simulation by depositing the material layers on the upper and lower substrates acting as reference base planes, respectively, and sandwiching an intermediate insertion layer between the upper and lower substrates with the material layers thereon facing each other, in

particular, in the case where at least one of the material layers has a tapered region (which will be referred to as an "tapered material layer"), which is not parallel to the upper and lower substrates and is inclined to the base planes.

A liquid crystal display is a display apparatus generally constructed such that a liquid crystal material is filled in a space between a lower substrate having a thin film transistor, a pixel electrode and the like formed thereon and an upper substrate having an opposite electrode, a color filter, and the like formed thereon.

For the computer simulation of the liquid crystal display, a conventional software system for two-dimensional computer simulation employs a method of defining polygons as cross-sectional shapes of the liquid crystal cell in order to define a three-dimensional structure of the liquid crystal cell, and thus it is difficult for the conventional software system to define the three-dimensional structure of the liquid crystal cell.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide a method for producing a three-dimensional structure from a mask layout.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a method for defining a three-dimensional structure of a liquid crystal cell constituting a liquid crystal display.

It is yet another object of the present invention to provide a system for defining the three dimensional structure of the liquid crystal cell constituting the liquid crystal display.

In accordance with one aspect of the present invention, the above and other objects can be accomplished by the provision of a method for defining a three-dimensional structure of a liquid crystal cell, comprising the steps of: reading mask layout information for the liquid crystal cell; inputting a deposition sequence of material layers constituting the liquid crystal cell by use of the mask layout information for the liquid crystal cell; and defining the three-dimensional structure of the liquid crystal cell by use of the mask layout information in which a mask layout consists of polygons.

In accordance with another aspect of the

present invention, a system for defining a three-dimensional structure of a liquid crystal cell is provided, comprising: a preparation module for mask layout information; an input module for a deposition sequence of material layers constituting the liquid crystal cell; a change module for polygons constituting the mask layout; and a creation module for a three-dimensional structure of the liquid crystal cell.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Further features of the present invention will become apparent from a description of a method for defining a three-dimensional structure of a liquid crystal cell, which can be applied to manufacturing a computer simulation analyzer for predicting dynamic kinetics of a liquid crystal display, and a computer software system utilizing the same taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings of the preferred embodiment of the invention, which, however, should not be taken to be limitative to the invention and are for explanation and understanding only.

In the drawing:

FIG.1 is a flow diagram illustrating a

method for defining a three-dimensional structure of a liquid crystal cell in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

FIG.2 is a flow diagram illustrating a preferred embodiment of a process for inputting a deposition sequence of material layers constituting the liquid crystal cell by use of mask layout information for the liquid crystal cell in the method of the invention.

FIGS. 3 to 7 show sequential steps of the method for defining the three-dimensional structure of the liquid crystal cell in accordance with the embodiment of the invention.

FIG.8 is a constitutional view of a system for defining a three-dimensional structure of a liquid crystal cell in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 9 is a view illustrating a preferred embodiment of a preparation module for mask layout information.

FIG. 10 is a view illustrating a preferred embodiment of an input module for a deposition sequence of material layers constituting the liquid crystal cell, which is exhibited when selecting a button for defining the three-dimensional structure.

FIG. 11 is a view illustrating a preferred embodiment of an input module for the information of material layers, which is exhibited when selecting a button for adding a new material layer.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT OF THE INVENTION

Embodiments of the present invention will now be described in detail with reference to FIGS. 1 and 7.

FIG.1 is a flow diagram illustrating a method for defining a three-dimensional structure of a liquid crystal cell according to the invention. Referring to FIG. 1, the method comprises the steps of reading mask layout information for the liquid crystal cell in which a mask layout consists of polygons (S110); inputting a deposition sequence of material layers constituting the liquid crystal cell by use of the mask layout information for the liquid crystal cell (S120); and defining the three-dimensional structure of the liquid crystal cell by use of the mask layout information (S130).

According to the preferred embodiment of

the invention, the mask layout information for the liquid crystal cell structure is provided in the form of an electronic file produced by a mask layout producing system.

FIG.2 is a flow diagram illustrating a preferred embodiment of a process for inputting a deposition sequence of material layers constituting the liquid crystal cell by use of the mask layout information for the liquid crystal cell structure in the method of the invention. Referring to FIG. 2, the process comprises the steps of defining characteristics of a liquid crystal layer (S210); defining the deposition sequence of the material layers respectively formed on upper and lower substrate with the liquid crystal layer provided as a center layer between the upper and lower substrates (S220); and storing information of the material layers deposited in the liquid crystal cell (S230).

According to the preferred embodiment of the invention, the characteristics of the liquid crystal layer may be determined by a method of defining a kind of liquid crystal material and a thickness of the liquid crystal layer with regard to the basically produced liquid crystal layer.

According to the preferred embodiment of the invention, the step of defining the deposition sequence of the material layers on the upper and lower substrates with the liquid crystal layer provided as the center layer between the upper and lower substrate may be realized by a process of sequentially defining the material layers constituting the upper and lower substrates from the lower substrate to the upper substrate in the vertical direction with the liquid crystal layer basically produced as the center layer between the upper and lower substrates, and alternatively, by a process of defining a new material layer, which is inserted between the previously defined material layers. The new material layer may be defined using a name of the material layer, a kind of the material, a thickness of the material layer, a name of the mask, a kind of positive or negative mask, an angle of side surface, and a kind of the substrate.

According to the preferred embodiment of the invention, the information of the deposited material layer in the liquid crystal cell may be directly stored in a memory of a computer. Alternatively, the information of the deposited material layer may be provided as an electronic

file in a storing media, such as a hard disk drive, for the computer.

FIGS. 3 to 6 show a preferred embodiment of a method for defining the three-dimensional structure of the liquid crystal cell of the invention. Referring to FIG. 3, as the preferred embodiment of the mask layout information for defining the three-dimensional structure, the information of the mask layout consisting of a region 300 for defining the three-dimensional structure, a first mask 310 and a second mask 320 is shown.

Referring to FIG. 4, the first mask 310 is a mask to which a taper angle is not designated, and the second mask 320 is a mask to which the taper angle is designated. With the second mask 320 to which the taper angle is designated, a divided polygon 321 is formed by dividing an internal area of a polygon of a mask layout object along edges overlapped by the polygon of the mask layout object and a polygon of another mask. FIG. 5 shows the three-dimensional structure of the mask of FIG. 4.

Referring to FIG. 6, a first material layer 350 having a predetermined thickness is formed by use of the region 300 for defining the three-dimensional structure, a second material

layer 360 having a predetermined thickness is formed on the first material layer 350 by use of the first mask 310, and a third material layer 370 is formed on the three-dimensional structure consisting of the first material layer 350 and the second material layer 360 by use of the second mask 320 having the divided polygon 321.

According to the preferred embodiment of the invention, a thickness of each material layer may be designated by a user. According to the preferred embodiment, the second material layer 360 may be formed by expanding the structure of the first mask 310 upward by a thickness designated by the user from an upper surface of the first material layer 310.

According to the preferred embodiment of the invention, in order to form the third material layer 370, the structure of the second mask 320 is initially formed as a lower surface of the third material layer 370 on an exposed upper surface of the three-dimensional structure consisting of the first and second material layers 350 and 360, an upper surface of the third material layer 370 is produced by expanding the structure of the divided polygon 321 upward by a thickness designated by the user from the lower surface of the third material

layer 370, and side surfaces of the third material layer 370 are then formed by connecting apexes of the lower surface of the third material layer 370 to corresponding apexes of the upper surface of the third material layer 370.

Referring to FIG. 7, in addition to the three-dimensional structure of the lower substrate consisting of the first, second and third material layers 350, 360 and 370, a fourth material layer 380 constituting the upper substrate is formed at a position displaced a thickness of the liquid crystal material designated by the user from the lowest point of the upper surface of the lower substrate in the vertical direction, and a fifth material layer 390 is formed between the lower surface of the upper substrate and the upper surface of the lower substrate. According to the preferred embodiment of the invention, the fifth material 390 filling a space between the lower substrate and the upper substrate is defined as the liquid crystal material.

FIG. 8 is a constructional view of a system for defining the three-dimensional structure of the liquid crystal cell of the liquid crystal display according to the

invention. Referring to FIG. 8, the system 400 for defining the three-dimensional structure of the liquid crystal cell comprises a preparation module 410 for mask layout information, an input module 420 for information of a deposition sequence of material layers constituting the liquid crystal cell, a creation module 430 for the three dimensional structure of the liquid crystal cell, a definition file 440 for the mask layout, and an information file 450 for the deposition sequence of material layers in the liquid crystal cell.

FIG. 9 is a view of a preferred embodiment of the preparation module 410 for the mask layout information. Referring to FIG. 9, the preparation module 410 comprises a simulation region setting button 501, a three-dimensional structure defining button 502, a mask layout preparation portion 510, and a mask management portion 520. The mask management portion 520 has a function for selecting a mask 521 from a mask list while exhibiting the mask list included in the definition file 440 for the mask layout, and the simulation region setting button 501 has a function for drawing a mask object 511 on the mask selected from the mask list 520. The simulation region setting button

501 has a function for setting the simulation region 530 in the mask layout producing portion 510. The mask management portion 520 has a function for allowing the input module 420 for the information of deposition sequence of material layers constituting the liquid crystal cell to be executed.

FIG. 10 is a view illustrating a preferred embodiment of the input module 420 for the information of the deposition sequence of material layers constituting the liquid crystal cell, which is exhibited when selecting the three-dimensional structure defining button 502. Referring to FIG. 10, the input module 420 for the information of deposition sequence of material layers constituting the liquid crystal cell comprises an information viewer 610 for the deposition sequence of the material layers, an insert button 620 for adding a new material layer, a delete button 630 for deleting the new material layer selected from the information viewer 610 for material layers, an execution button 640 for generating the three-dimensional structure, an opening button 650 for reading the information of material layers, and a save button 660 for saving the information of material layers.

FIG. 11 is a view illustrating a preferred embodiment of an input module 700 for the information of material layers, which is exhibited when selecting the insert button 620 for adding the new material layer. Referring to FIG. 11, the input module 700 for the information of material layers comprises a material selecting portion 710, an input portion 720 for a thickness of the material layer, a mask selecting portion 730, a mask characteristic setting portion 740, an upward-insert button 750 for adding a new material layer above the selected material layer, a downward-insert button 760 for adding a new material layer under the selected material layer, and a close button 770 for closing the input module 700 for the information of material layers.

The mask characteristic setting portion 740 comprises a mask selecting portion 741 between a positive mask and a negative mask, a taper angle input portion 742 for inputting a taper angle at edges of the material layer when depositing the material layers using the mask, and a selection portion 743 for selecting whether a side surface of the material layer using the mask is formed with a sharp taper

angle or a smooth taper angle.

As apparent from the above description, the invention provides the system for defining the three-dimensional structure of the liquid crystal cell of the liquid crystal display, which comprises the preparation module for the mask layout information, the input module for the deposition sequence of material layers in the liquid crystal cell, and the definition module for defining the three-dimensional structure of the liquid crystal cell, and the method for defining the three-dimensional structure of the liquid crystal cell, which comprises the step of inputting the deposition sequence of material layers of the liquid crystal cell using the mask layout information for the liquid crystal cell and the step for defining the three-dimensional structure of the liquid crystal cell using the information of the mask layout consisting of the polygons, thereby constituting the structure definition system for executing computer simulation for the liquid crystal cell of the liquid crystal display.

Although the invention has been illustrated and described with respect to exemplary embodiments thereof, it should be understood by those skilled in the art that

various other changes, omissions and additions may be made therein and thereto, without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention.

Therefore, the present invention should not be understood as limited to the specific embodiment set forth above but to include all possible embodiments within a scope encompassed and equivalents thereof with respect to the features set forth in the appended claims.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for defining a three-dimensional structure comprising a plurality of material layers between upper and lower substrates through computer simulation using input data of mask layout, wherein the three-dimensional structure is defined during the computer simulation by depositing material layers on the upper and lower substrates acting as reference base planes, respectively, and sandwiching an intermediate insertion layer between the upper and lower substrates with the material layers thereon facing each other, in particular, when at least one of the material layers has a tapered region (which will be referred to as an "tapered material layer"), which is not parallel to the upper and lower substrates and is inclined to the base planes.

2. The method as set forth in Claim 1, comprising the steps of:

a) designating a certain material layer as the intermediate insertion layer among the plurality of material layers formed between the upper and lower substrates, followed by designating parameters including a thickness of the intermediate insertion layer and/or a kind

of material thereof;

b) designating information of a name, a kind of material, a thickness, and an associated mask for each of the plurality of material layers deposited onto the upper substrate and the lower substrate formed at upper and lower surfaces of the three-dimensional structure with the intermediate insertion layer formed at the center between the upper and lower substrates, and information of a taper angle of the tapered material layer when the at least one of the material layers has the tapered region, which is not parallel to the upper and lower substrates and is inclined to the base planes, followed by defining a deposition sequence for the material layers on the upper and lower substrates, respectively; and

c) determining whether each of the material layers is formed by use of polygons defining a mask layout object defined for the associated mask as a lower surface of the material layer or by use of remaining regions as the lower surface of the material layer except for the polygons defining the mask layout object defined for the associated mask.

3 The method as set forth in Claim 1,

comprising the steps of:

a) forming an internal polygon within a polygon defining a mask layout object for a mask having a designated taper angle, the internal polygon having a size smaller than the polygon defining the mask layout object while having the same shape and sequence of apexes as those of the polygon defining the mask layout object, followed by forming side polygons dividing a planar space between the internal polygon and the polygon defining the mask layout object by connecting the apexes of the internal polygon to the associated apexes of the polygon defining the mask layout object such that the apexes having the same sequences are connected to each other from the internal polygon to the polygon defining the mask layout object;

b) forming lines at both sides of edges of each of polygons defining a mask layout object defined for another mask except for the mask having the designated taper angle so as to be parallel to both sides of the edges of each of the polygons at an overlap region between the polygons defining the mask layout object defined for the other mask except for the mask having the designated taper angle and the polygon defined for the mask having the designated taper

angle, followed by dividing the polygon defined for the mask having the designated taper angle by use of the lines;

c) when forming the material layer using a mask without the designated taper angle or the material layer formed without a designated mask according to information of a deposition sequence for the material layers on the lower substrate, depositing a material for the material layer using the mask without the designated taper angle to have a thickness designated by a user upward from an upper surface of the material layer previously defined on the lower substrate

d) when forming the material layer using the mask having the designated taper angle according to the information of the deposition sequence of the material layers on the lower substrate, defining the mask layout object as a lower surface of the material layer using the mask having the designated taper angle over the upper surface of the material layer previously defined on the lower substrate, the internal polygon of the mask layout object as an upper surface of the material layer using the mask having the designated taper angle at a position spaced a predetermined thickness upward from the upper

surface of the material layer previously defined on the lower substrate, and the side polygons of the mask layout object as side surfaces of the material layer using the mask having the designated taper angle, respectively, followed by depositing a new material for the material layer formed using the mask having the designated taper angle in a region surrounded by the polygon of the lower surface, the polygon of the upper surface, and the polygons of the side surfaces;

e) when forming the material layer using the mask without the designated taper angle or the material layer formed without using the designated mask according to the information of the deposition sequence of the material layers on the upper substrate, depositing another new material for the material layer formed using the mask without the designated taper angle or the material layer formed without using the designated mask to have a predetermined thickness downward from a lower surface of the material layer previously defined on the upper substrate;

f) when forming the material layer using the mask having the designated taper angle according to information of a deposition sequence of the

material layers on the upper substrate, defining the mask layout object as an upper surface of the material layer using the mask having the designated taper angle over the lower surface of the material layer previously defined on the upper substrate, the internal polygon of the mask layout object as a lower surface of the material layer using the mask having the designated taper angle at a position spaced a predetermined thickness downward from the lower surface of the material layer previously defined on the upper substrate, and the side polygons of the mask layout object as side surfaces of the material layer using the mask having the designated taper angle, respectively, followed by depositing another new material for the material layer formed using the mask having the designated taper angle in a region surrounded by the polygon of the upper surface, the polygon of the lower surface, and the side surfaces;

g) when forming the material layer using the mask having the designated taper angle according to the information of the deposition sequence of the material layers on the upper substrate, depositing another new material for the material layer downwardly, the material layer using the mask layout object as an upper surface of the

material layer using the mask having the designated taper angle on the lower surface of the material layer previously defined on the upper substrate, the internal polygon of the mask layout object as a lower surface of the material layer using the mask having the designated taper angle at a position spaced the predetermined thickness downward from the lower surface of the material layer previously defined on the upper substrate, and the side polygons of the mask layout object as side surfaces of the material layer using the mask having the designated taper angle;

h) displacing the upper substrate upward such that the highest apex among the apexes of the polygons constituting the upper surface of the defined lower substrate is located at a position spaced a thickness of the crystal liquid region designated by the user from the lowest apex among the apexes of the polygons constituting the upper surface of the defined lower substrate; and

i) filling a space between the upper substrate and the lower substrate with the intermediate insertion layer.

FIG. 1

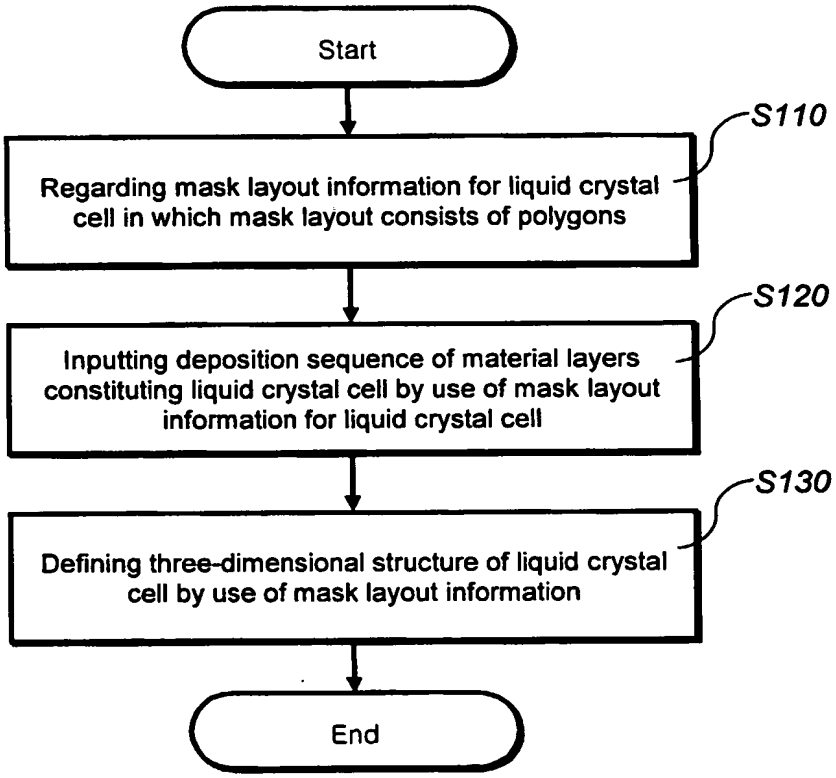

Start
S110
Regarding mask layout information for liquid crystal cell in which mask layout consists of polygons
S120
Inputting deposition sequence of material layers constituting liquid crystal cell by use of mask layout information for liquid crystal cell
S130
Defining three-dimensional structure of liquid crystal cell by use of mask layout information
End

FIG. 2

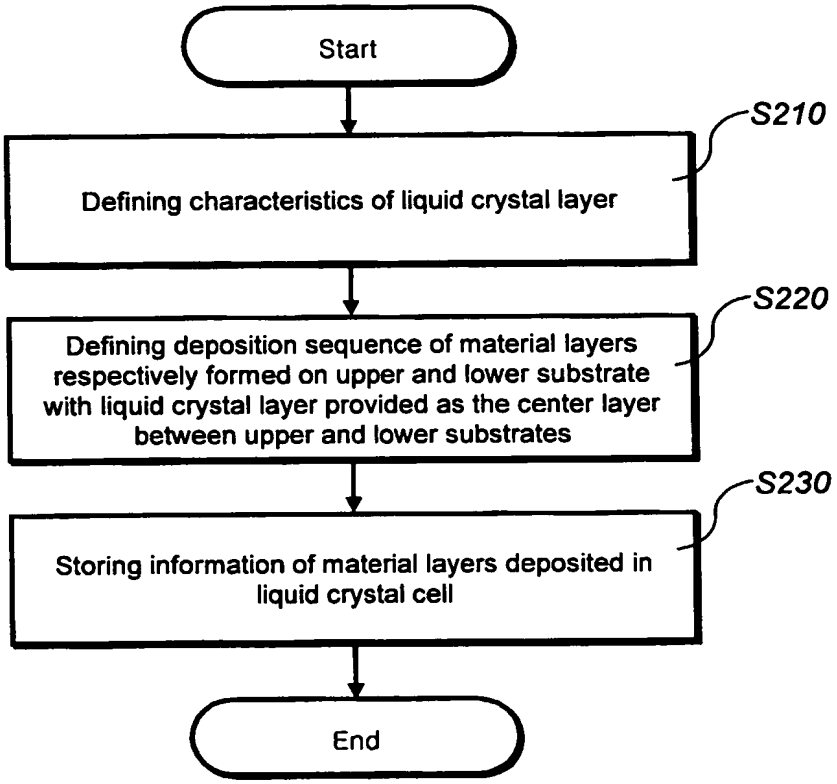

Start
S210
Defining characteristics of liquid crystal layer
S220
Defining deposition sequence of material layers respectively formed on upper and lower substrate with liquid crystal layer provided as the center layer between upper and lower substrates
S230
Storing information of material layers deposited in liquid crystal cell
End

FIG. 3

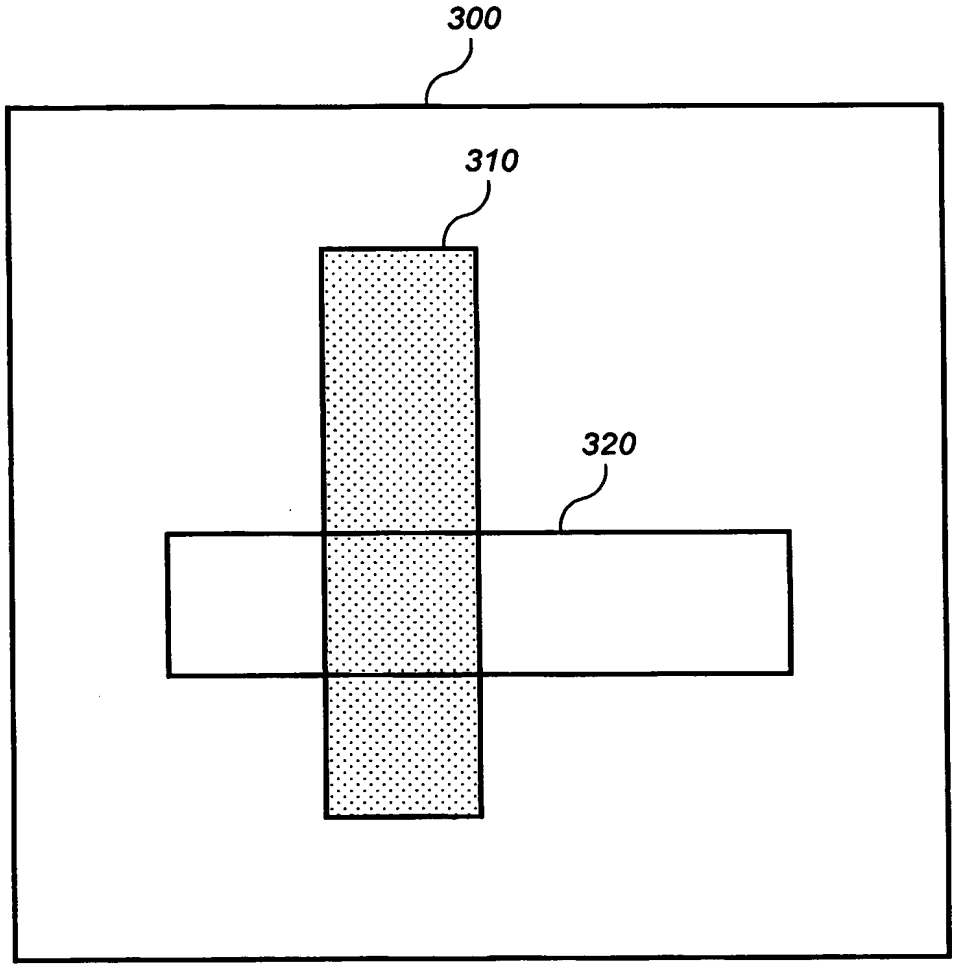


FIG. 4

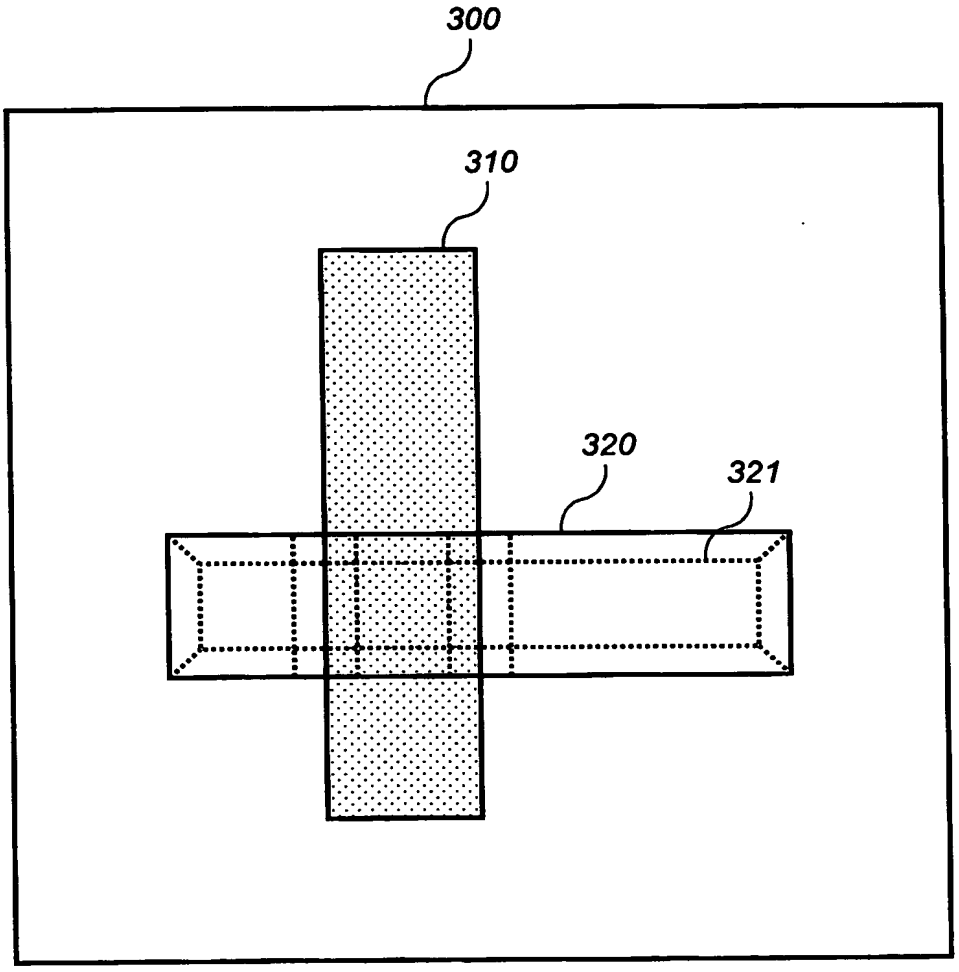


FIG. 5

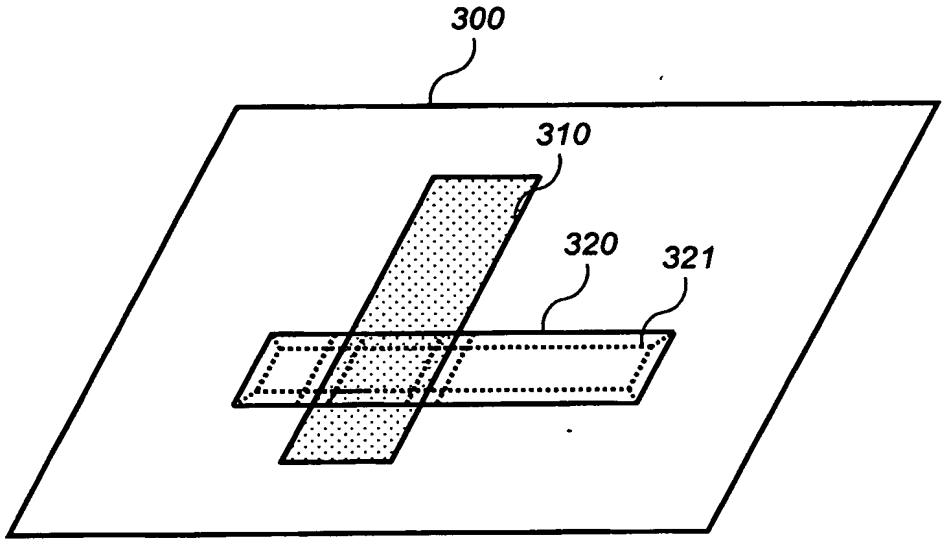


FIG. 6

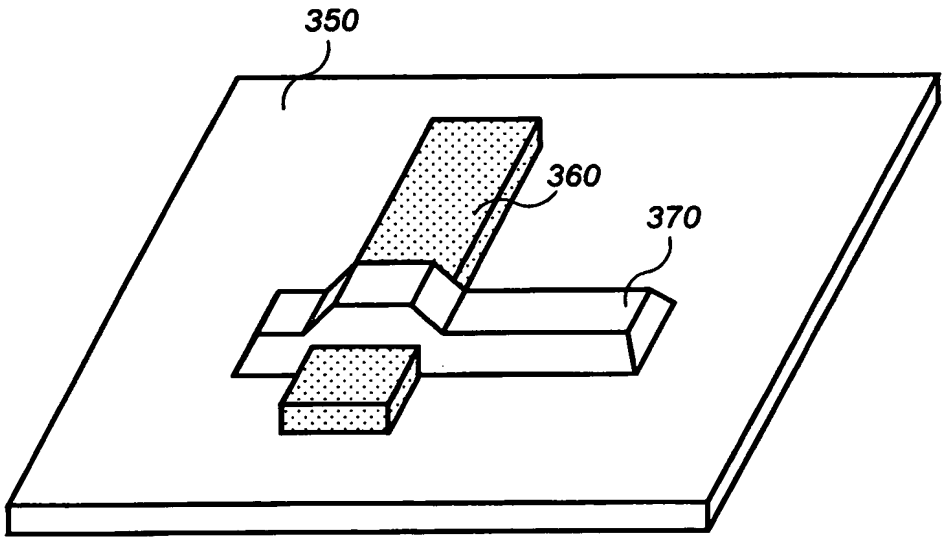


FIG. 7

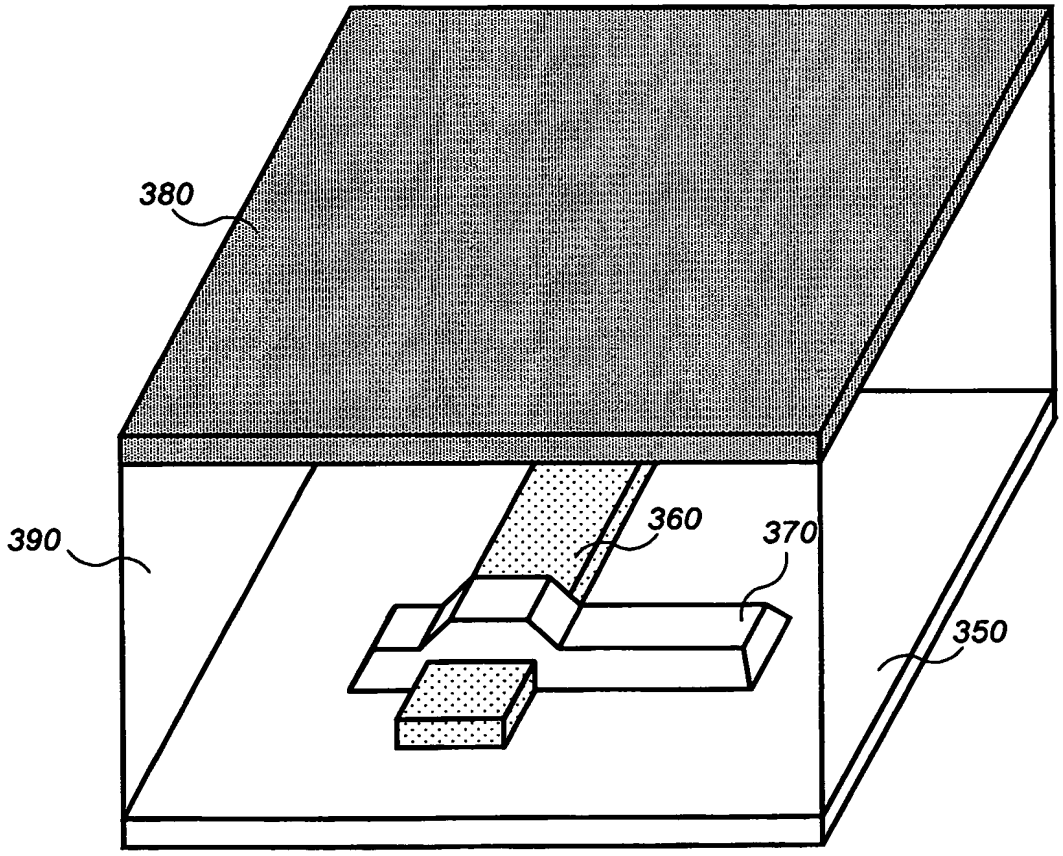


FIG. 8

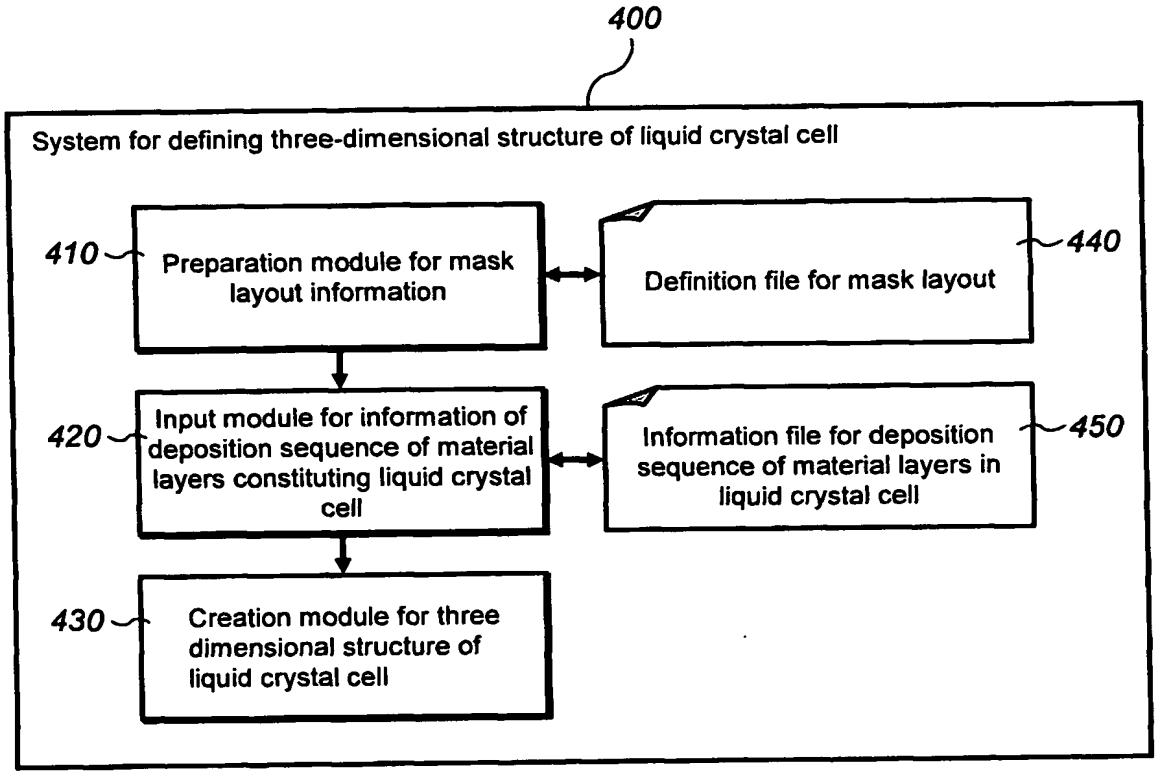

400
System for defining three-dimensional structure of liquid crystal cell
410
Preparation module for mask layout information
440
Definition file for mask layout
420
Input module for information of deposition sequence of material layers constituting liquid crystal cell
450
Information file for deposition sequence of material layers in liquid crystal cell
430
Creation module for three dimensional structure of liquid crystal cell

FIG. 9

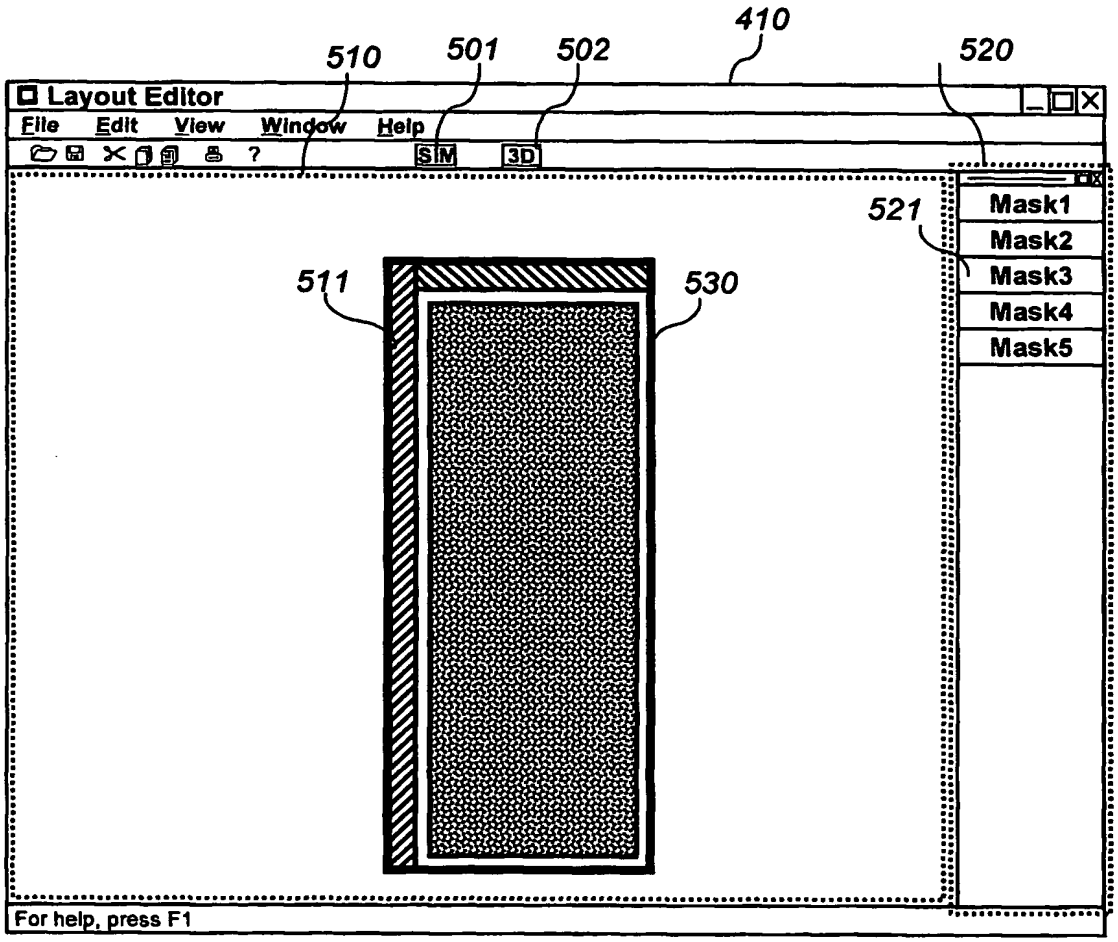

410
510
501
502
520
Layout Editor
File Edit View Window Help
SIM
3D
521
Mask1
Mask2
Mask3
Mask4
Mask5
511
530
For help, press F1

FIG. 10

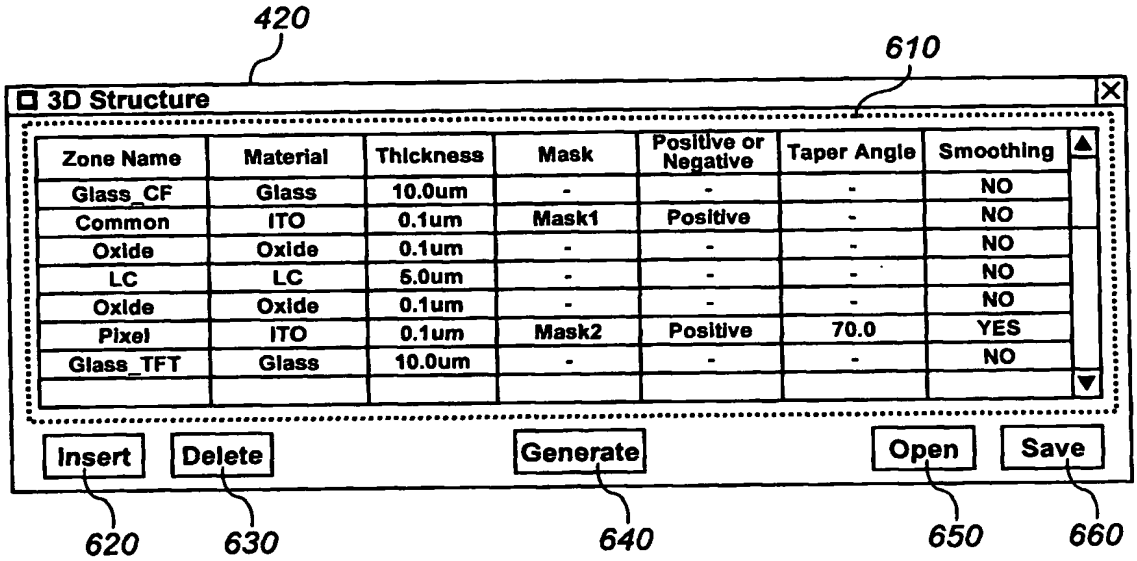
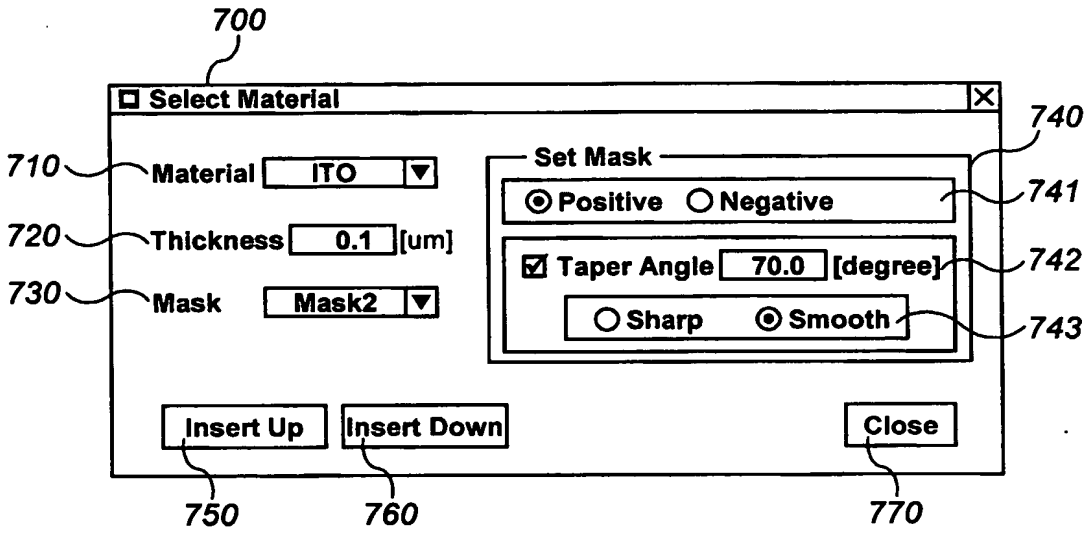

420
610
3D Structure
Zone Name
Material
Thickness
Mask
Positive or Negative
Taper Angle
Smoothing
Glass_CF
Glass
10.0um
-
-
-
NO
Common
ITO
0.1um
Mask1
Positive
-
NO
Oxide
Oxide
0.1um
-
-
-
NO
LC
LC
5.0um
-
-
-
NO
Oxide
Oxide
0.1um
-
-
-
NO
Pixel
ITO
0.1um
Mask2
Positive
70.0
YES
Glass_TFT
Glass
10.0um
-
-
-
NO
Insert
Delete
Generate
Open
Save
620
630
640
650
660

FIG. 11


700
Select Material
710
Material
ITO
720
Thickness
0.1
[um]
730
Mask
Mask2
740
Set Mask
741
Positive
Negative
742
Taper Angle
70.0
[degree]
743
Sharp
Smooth
Insert Up
Insert Down
Close
750
760
770

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/KR2004/001183

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC7 G06F 17/50

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC7 G06F 17/50

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

KR IPC as above

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

eKIPASS "mask layout", "LCD", "generating 3D structure"

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	KR 10-1994-0007724 Y1 (TOSHIBA COR) 28. April 1994.	1
A	KR 10-2004-0019601 Y1 (SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS CO., LTD) 06. March 2004.	1
A	US 2003/0232255 A1 (Molela Moukara, Reinhard Pufall) 18. December 2003.	1
A	KR 10-2003-0084824 Y1 (T. Y. Won) 01. November 2003.	1-3

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:
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"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
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"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents,such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
10 NOVEMBER 2004 (10.11.2004)	**12 NOVEMBER 2004 (12.11.2004)**

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